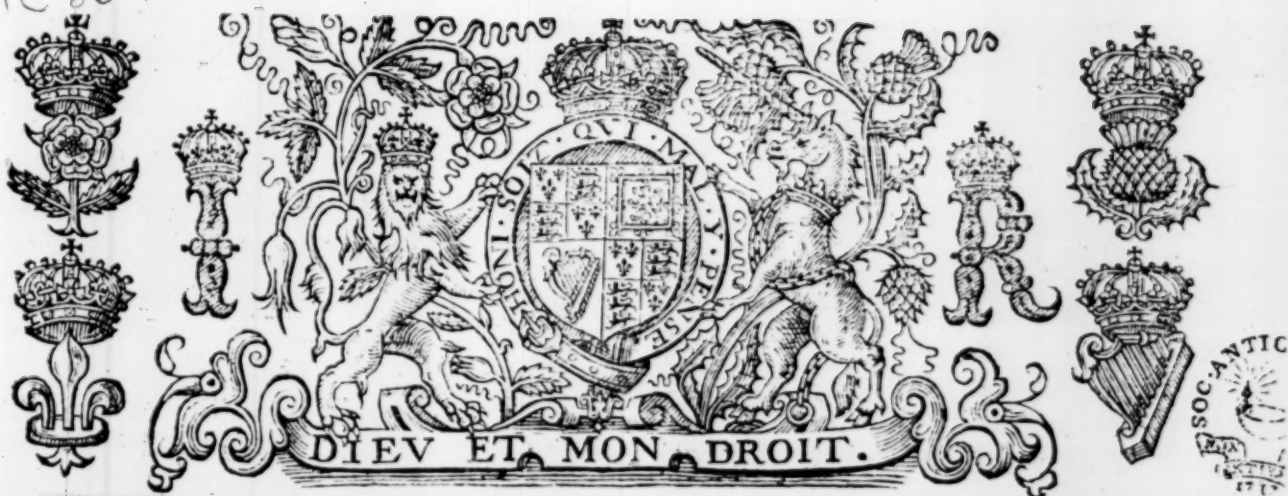


STC 8651



**Almes**

By the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and singular Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deanes, and their Officials, Parsons, Vicars, Curats, and to all spirituall persons. And also to all Iustices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Constables, Churchwardens and Headboroughes: And to all Officers of Citties, Burroughes, and Townes corporate: And to all other our Officers, Ministers and Subjects whatsoever they be, as well within Liberties, as without, to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

**WHEREAS** by our Letters Patents bearing date the seaven and Twentieth day of March, in the sixtenth yere of our Raigne of England, &c. upon a Certificate vnder the handes of our trusty and welbeloued Subjects Sir Edmond Bowyer, Sir Nicholas Carew, Sir Thomas Grimes, Sir Thomas Mulchampe, Sir Francis Clarke, Sir George Paule, and Sir Iohn Howland Knights, Iustices of the Peace within our County of Surrey, we did giue and grant vnto our poore distressed Subject Abraham Lambart of Woodside in the Parish of Croydon in our foresaid County, full power, licence and Authority, to aske, gather, receiue and take the Almes & charitable beneuolence of all our louing Subjects within our County of Surrey and certayne other Counties, for and in respect of his great losses sustained by fire amounting to the value of Thre hundred pounds, to the utter vndoing of our said poore Subject, his Wife and five small Children, which Letters Patents are now determined and out of Date. Now so much as it hath since appeared vnto vs by the humble supplication and petition of our said poore Subject Abraham Lambart being also confirmed by Affidavit, that our said poore Subject by reason of the hurt and lamenesse which happened vnto him by the said fire, whereby he could not trauell himselfe about his Collection, as also by the negligence & deceit of such as he put in trust he receiued little benefit by the said collection (as we graciously intended he should) whereby he is fallen into greater misery then before, being impotent and not able to labour for his liuing, nor to sustaine his charge of Wife and Children, and also much indebted and behind hand, and in dayly danger of imprisonment, in consideration whereof he hath most humbly besought vs that we would be further pleased to renew our said Letters Patents for some other places, for him to seeke some reliefe to preserve him and his from perishing, whose miserable & poore estate we much pittie. We haue thought good to commend the same vnto the charitable consideration of all our louing and weldisposed Subjects within certayne Counties hereafter mentioned, not doubting but that all good Christians well weighing the vncertainty of mans estate through these inuincible accidents, will be ready and willing as feeling members one of anothers misery, to extend their charitable contributions towards the reliefe and Comfort of their distressed brother in this his great necessity, none knowing how some nor whose chance may next happen into the like Calamity.

**AND** we therefore, that of our speciall Grace and Princely compassion, we haue giuen & granted, and by these our Letters Patents doe giue and grant, vnto our said poore Subject Abraham Lambart, and to his Deputy & Deputies, the bearer or bearers hereof, full power, licence, and Authority, to aske, gather, receiue and take the Almes and charitable beneuolence of all our louing Subjects whatsoever, inhabiting within our Counties of Oxford, Buckingham, Hartford, Essex, Cambridge, Lincolne, Northampton, and Warwick, with our City and Vniuersity of Oxford, and in our Citties of Lincolne, Peterborough and Couentrey, with our Vniuersity of Cambridge, and Isle of Ely, And in all other Citties, Townes Corporate, Willeaged places, Parishes, Villages, and in all other places whatsoever within our said Counties and not else where, for and towards the speedy reliefe and maintenance of our said poore Subject his Wife and Children.

**WHEREFORE** we will and Command you and every of you, that at such time and times as the said Abraham Lambart, or his Deputy or Deputies, the bearer or bearers hereof, shall come and repaire to any your Churches, Chappels, or other places, to aske and receiue the gratuities & charitable beneuolence of our said Subjects, quietly to permit & suffer them so to doe, without any manner your lets or contradictions. And you the said Parsons, Vicars, & Curats, for the better stirring vp of a charitable deuotion, deliberately to publish and declare the Tenor of these our Letters Patents vnto our said Subjects upon some Sabaoth day, when as the same shall be tendered vnto you. Exhorting and perswading them to extend their liberrall contributions in so good and charitable a deede. And you the Churchwardens of every Parish, where such Collection is to be made (as aforesaid) to Collect & gather the Almes and charitable beneuolence of all our louing Subjects, as well Strangers as others, And what shall be by you so gathered, to deliuer it to the bearer or bearers of these our Letters Patents, and to no other person, when as thereunto you shall be required. And lastly, whereas we are informed of the great abuse which is now crept in amongst these poore people, who sell their Licences vnto some other person, whereby mens charity goeth not the right way but vnto such as deserue it least. That from henceforth our will and pleasure is, that if it may appeare vnto any of you that the said Abraham Lambart hath contracted any bargain, or made or shall make sale of these our Letters Patents, whereby the benefit should passe from him to any other person, That thereupon these our Letters Patents shall be void and of none effect. Any Statute, Law, Ordinance, or Provision heretofore made to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

In witness whereof, we haue caused these our Letters to be made Patents for the space of One whole yere next after the date hereof to endure. Witness our selfe at Westminster, the nineteenth day of January, in the Eighteenth yere of our Raigne of England, France, and Ireland: And of Scotland the thre and fiftieth.

*Steward.*

God saue the King

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Cum Privilegio